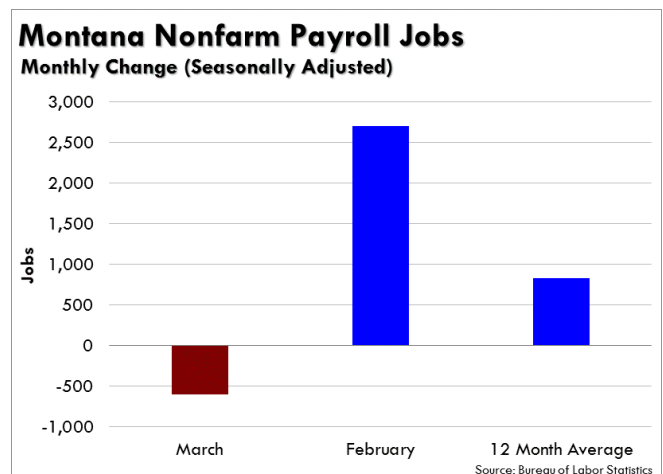
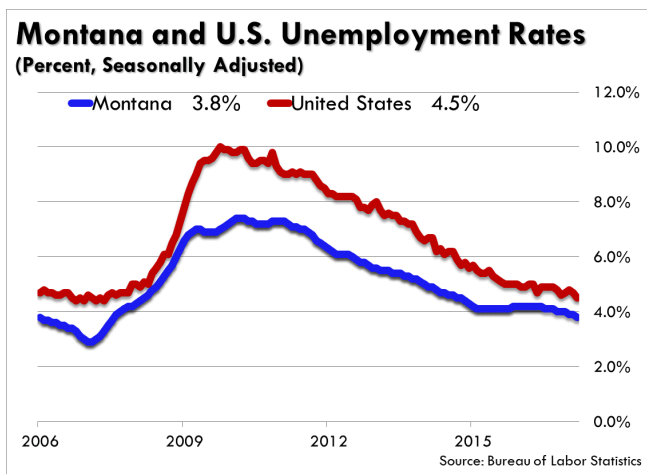


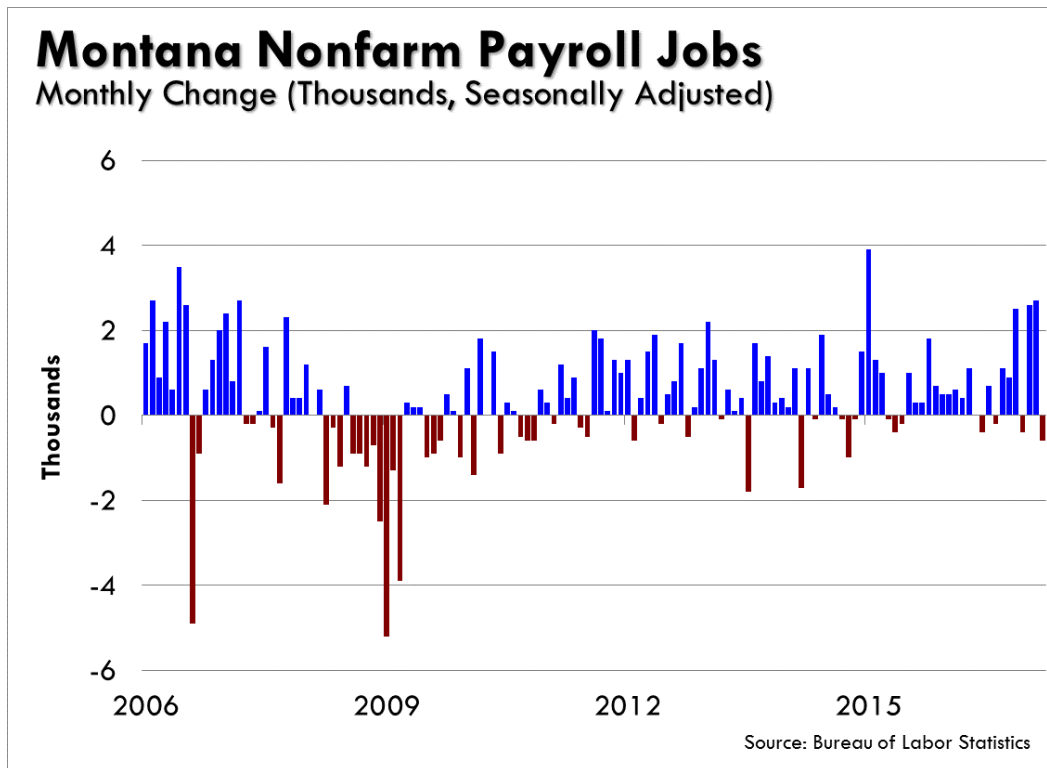


April 23, 2017

Summary

- **Montana lost 600 jobs and the unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage point to 3.8 percent in March** according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data.
- **Over the past twelve months, Montana added 10,000 jobs** and the unemployment rate fell by 0.4 percentage point from 4.2 percent.
- **In March, Montana's private sector lost 800 jobs** and over the past twelve months it created 8,800 jobs.
- The number of **unemployed Montanans fell by 414 in March**, and over the past year 3,036 Montanans found jobs.
- Montana's **labor force participation rate decreased to 63.4 percent** from 63.5 percent in March. Since last year, the labor force participation rate fell 0.5 percentage point.
- The national unemployment rate **declined by 0.2 percentage point to 4.5 percent in March**. State employment and unemployment data for April is scheduled for release on May 19, 2017. The national employment situation report for April will be released on Friday, May 5, 2017.





Montana Payroll Employment

Montana lost 600 jobs, or 0.13 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during March. In the prior month, Montana added 2,700 jobs. Over the past twelve months, nonfarm payrolls in Montana increased by 10,000, or 2.14 percent. Montana nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 98,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the 12-month period ending March 2017, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,185,000 jobs, or 1.52 percent. Montana ranks 40th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

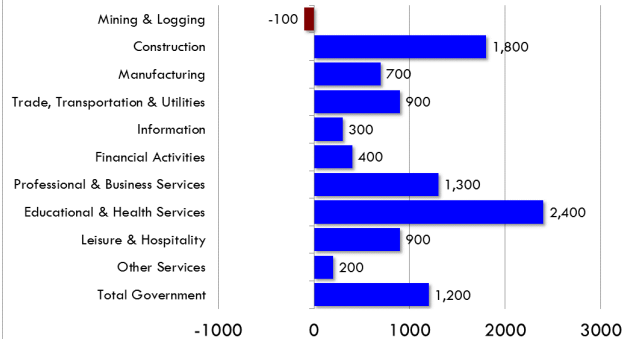
During March, Montana's private-sector lost 800 jobs, or 0.21 percent. The private-sector in Montana added 2,500 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in Montana increased by 8,800, or 2.34 percent. Montana private-sector payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 89,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,033,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.67 percent. Montana ranks 34th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during March were Manufacturing (+300), Educational & Health Services (+200), and Total Government (+200). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Leisure & Hospitality (-700) and Professional & Business Services (-300).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+2,400) and Construction (+1,800). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Mining & Logging (-100) and Other Services (+200).

Change in Montana Payroll Employment by Sector over Past 12 Months



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, seasonally adjusted.

Montana Labor Force Statistics

Labor Force Participation

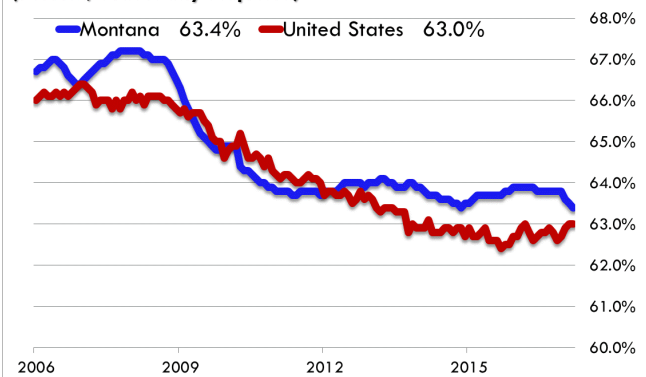
The labor force participation rate in Montana declined to 63.4 percent in March from 63.5 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 28 have a higher labor force participation rate than Montana. The labor force participation rate in Montana is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Montana was 67.2 percent in March 2008. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Montana occurred in April 1990 when the labor force participation rate hit 69.4 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 63.4 percent in March 2017. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in July 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 61.2 percent. The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 63.0 percent, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

Employment-to-Population Ratio

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Montana civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, declined to 61.0 percent in March from 61.1 percent the prior

Montana and U.S. Labor Force Participation (Percent, Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 25 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Montana. The employment-to-population ratio in Montana is 0.2 percentage point lower than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Montana was 64.7 percent in May 2007. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Montana occurred in April 1990 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 65.6 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 59.1 percent in February 2011. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in August 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio was 57.5 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 60.1 percent in March. That rate was 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

